

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YAROSLAVSKY & ANTONOVICH

March 26, 2013

On August 7, 2012 President Obama signed the Sequestration Transparency Act, which is expected to slash federal spending by \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years. Implementation of the budget sequestration went into effect on March 1, 2013. Under sequestration, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is being required to cut \$600 million from its budget. In order to achieve this cut, on March 22, 2013 FAA Chief Operating Officer David Grizzle announced that 149 "Contract Towers," or air traffic control towers operated under private contract with the FAA, will close on April 7, 2013. Among the contract towers to be closed are those located at two Los Angeles County Airfields - Whiteman Airport (Pacoima) and Fox Airfield (Lancaster).

The contract tower program was designed to improve flight operations and safety by separating aircraft upon take-off and landing. Thus the closure of 149 contract towers could have a very negative impact upon safety. Whiteman Airport is closely situated to Burbank Airport and Burbank's airspace actually wraps partially around Whiteman. Whiteman tower controllers coordinate many dozens of flights per day through Burbank airspace, a procedure only possible with direct communication

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between Burbank and Whiteman airport towers. Air traffic control there plays a vital role in the air safety net of the east San Fernando Valley for air travelers and pilots alike.

The Fox Airfield Tower in Lancaster coordinates hundreds of flights per year during wild fire disasters when the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's tanker base is activated. The tanker base has operated out of Fox Airfield for more than 40 years and will certainly be negatively impacted by the tower closure. Additionally, the County and the City of Lancaster have been working together with prospective large-scale flight training operators and other commercial operators that will not come to the airport without air traffic control services. These are very real examples of how the closure of the Fox Airfield tower will have a direct negative affect on commerce and job creation, in a region already struggling to achieve economic recovery.

The contract tower program has been proven time and again to be one of the most efficient federal programs, as indicated in the audit of the program recently conducted by the Federal Office of the Inspector General. It is imperative that we make every effort to keep our Air Traffic Control Towers open.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to President Obama and the Congressional Leadership of both parties, opposing the closure of the Air Traffic Control Towers at our County Airports.